Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (withdrawn) A process for the differential diagnosis of primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

obtaining a blood sample; and

determining the presence therein of an autoantibody to ICA69;

whereby the presence of said autoantibody confirms a diagnosis of primary Sjögren's Syndrome.

Claim 2. (original) An immunotherapeutic process for alleviating and/or reversing the progression of primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

treating an individual suffering from primary Sjögren's Syndrome with a high affinity mimicry peptide targeting ICA69-specific T cells in a manner effective to induce tolerance to a relevant ICA69 epitope

whereby a reduction in the symptoms characteristic of primary Sjögren's Syndrome is attained.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A transgenic NOD congenic mouse in characterized by inactivation of the genomic ICA69 locus.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) An assay for monitoring the disease status of a patient diagnosed with primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising;

periodically obtaining a blood sample from said patient; and

periodically analyzing said blood sample for the presence and or quantity of autoantibodies to ICA69;

whereby the presence or relative increase or decrease in ICA69 autoantibody concentration is indicative of the disease status of said patient.

Claim 5. (original) A process for reversing symptoms of sialoadenitis and dacryadenitis associated with late stage primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

treating an individual suffering from primary Sjögren's Syndrome with a high affinity mimicry peptide targeting ICA69-specific T cells in a manner effective to induce immunotherapeutic tolerance to ICA69;

whereby a reversal of sialoadenitis and dacryadenitis associated with late stage primary Sjögren's Syndrome is attained.

Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35 USC 121:

I. Claims 1 and 4, drawn to a process for monitoring or diagnosing primary Sjögren's Syndrome, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.

II. Claims 2 and 5, drawn to an immunotherapeutic process of treating primary Sjögren's Syndrome, classified in class 514, subclass 2.

III. Claim 3, drawn to a transgenic NOD congenic mouse characterized by inactivation of the genomic ICA69 locus, classified in class 435, subclass 325.